

**Channel Islands State Marine Park**  
**Public Comments Submitted**  
**Regarding Draft Management Plan**  
 Sept. - Oct. 2009

Issue	Comment	Source of comment	Date of Comment	Response
<b>Access</b>	Use the term "floatplane" rather than "aircraft." The use of helicopters should be strictly limited to administrative, management, and research requirements.	Written comment	9/16/09	It is not anticipated that the use of helicopters will be an access issue at this time. If this issue arises, Alaska State Parks will consider it in a future plan revision.
<b>Commercial activities</b>	Commercial uses of park lands should be very limited.	Public meeting	9/23/09	The final plan will indicate that "In accordance with 11 AAC 18.010-.040, permits may be issued for commercial uses only if the use meets specific criteria listed in 11 AAC 18.025 and is compatible with the statutory purposes for which the park was established. All permit applications for commercial activities will be vetted with the State Parks Advisory Board in a public meeting before a decision is made by Alaska State Parks.
	The plan should include more detailed information about how Alaska State Parks would address a request for commercial use in the park. What is appropriate? Where? At what levels of use?	Public meeting	9/23/09	
	This plan should include special guidelines that will be used when evaluating a permit application for commercial use, that is tailored to this marine park and reflects the already high level of commercial use on public lands in the borough.	Written comment	10/6/09	
	Is a permit needed to provide remote site pick-up and drop-off for park visitors?	Public meeting	9/23/09	A permit is not needed from if there is not a guided activity on park lands.

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<b>Establishment of Channel Island State Marine Park (SMP)</b>	Provide reference in Introduction to the statutory authority for SMPs (Title 41; Chapter 41.20; Article 3 - AK Marine Parks). Note that partks are dedicated as special purpose sites under article VIII, Sec. 7 of the Alaska Constitution.	Written comment	9/27/09	Added to Introduction section in plan
	Since AS 41.21.304(1) describes Shelter Island SMP and Juneau Area Islands separately, is this one entity of the park system, or two? Is there an entity properly called "Channel Islands" SMP? Are there legal or other implications of this?	Written comment	9/27/09	Channel Islands SMP was properly established as a single entity through state legislation.
	There is a federal network of Marine Protected Areas ( <a href="http://www.mpa.gov">www.mpa.gov</a> ); listing as an MPA would support purpose of establishing the Channel Islands SMP.	Written comment	9/16/09	No change to plan needed.

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<b>Facilities - general comments</b>	Concern Alaska State Parks will not be able to maintain facilities over long term (e.g., Oliver Inlet tram is in disrepair)	Written comment	9/25/09	State regulations require that facilities on State park land be kept in a condition that provides for safe public use. If they can not be maintained to this standard, they are removed.
	Develop recreation facilities in areas protected from prevailing winds. South Lincoln is a particularly windy and dangerous location; not appropriate for cabin or hardened camp site.	Written comment	9/30/09	Public safety is a top consideration for siting of public facilities. Each potential facility and site will be subject to a review and decision process that will consider public safety, as well as many other issues. Locations of public facilities will be vetted with the Advisory Board in a public meeting before decisions are made.
	Facilities should be sited to keep public activity away from private lands.	Written comment	9/22/09	Potential impacts on private lands will be considered in the review and decision process for siting of public facilities.
	No Action - May be best not to provide improvements/facilities, to avoid increasing public use.	Written comment	9/23/09	The park's enabling legislation says the park was established to protect the area's recreational and scenic resources and to preserve and enhance continued use of the area. Providing facilities and other improvements is appropriate to enhance safe public use, and may also be important tools for protecting resources from damage due to over use (e.g., impacts from dispersed camping sites, proliferation of fire rings.)

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<b>Facilities - Cabins</b>	Consider developing single cabins at sites before building second cabin in same area (e.g. Hand Troller Cove)	Written comment	9/30/09	Construction of a second cabin at Hand Troller Cove will be kept on the list for consideration. It may make most sense to focus public use in a particular area, to avoid dispersion of impacts.
	Do not build second cabin at Hand Troller Cove. Increased traffic and use of cove due to first cabin has reduced enjoyment of this site.	Written comment	9/25/09	
	Do not put cabins on smaller islands (particularly Portland).	Written comment	9/25/09	No cabin sites are being considered for the smaller islands.
	Providing cabins will increase use (and potential impacts) in the vicinity of each.	Public meeting	9/23/09	Future cabin sites will be selected only after a focused review and decision process, involving the Advisory Board and the public. Focusing public use in a few key locations can be an important management tool that protects other areas from impacts due to dispersed use.
	Suggest possible use of concrete dome (Leighty experimenting with this design). Low cost to operate and maintain.	Written comment	9/23/09	Thank you for the suggestion. No change to plan needed.
	Disappointed in the quality of construction and the negative impacts caused by cabins built at St. James Bay, Taku Harbor, Camping Cove, and Upper Seymour Cabin.	Written comment	9/25/09	Comment brought to attention of Alaska State Parks; no change to plan needed.
	Why build new cabins when USFS is having difficulty maintaining its existing cabins?	Public meeting	9/23/09	State Park cabins are at full occupancy in summer season. The proximity of these cabin sites to Juneau is a particular asset.

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<b>Facilities - Camp sites</b>				Installing fire rings is an important tool for managing damage from dispersed construction of fires outside of the intertidal. The plan prohibits use of wood that is not "down and dead." However, Alaska State Parks is not proposing to prohibit campfires.
	Does not prefer fire rings / campfires. Campfires leads to cutting of standing wood.	Written comment	9/25/09 10/06/09	
	Good to harden camp sites in high use areas	Public meeting	9/23/09	No change to plan needed.
	Provide substantial spacing between tent sites.	Public meeting	9/23/09	Alaska State Parks will consider use patterns and the desired camping experience at each improved camping area.
<b>Facilities - mooring buoys</b>	Mooring buoys will be difficult to install and maintain.	Public meeting	9/23/09	Alaska State Parks understands that there is public demand for mooring buoys to improve access and improve public safety. However, the Division will have to consider the feasibility of installing and maintaining buoys at public use cabin sites.
	Mooring buoys will be expensive and difficult to maintain on the west side of Shelter Island.	Written comment	9/23/09	
<b>Goals</b>	Suggested revision to Goal 2 to assure that it captures the need to balance recreation uses with protection of the scenic, recreational and habitat values cited in Goal 1.	Written comment	9/27/09	Goal 2 has been revised.
	Support protection of park resources; support protection of "habitat values" in Goal 1.	Written comment	9/27/09	No change to plan needed.

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<b>Hunting &amp; Trapping</b>	Concern about hunting near private homes; public safety issue.	Written comment	9/22/09	Legislation establishing the park specifically allows hunting. Alaska State Parks has no authority over management of hunting.
	Concern about trapping in the park.	Public meeting	9/23/09	Legislation establishing the park specifically allows trapping. Alaska State Parks has no authority over management of trapping.
	Do not allow trapping.	Written comment	9/23/09	
<b>Park Management</b>	Alaska State Parks should be encouraged to draft a few simple regulations or permit requirements for personal recreation uses, taking into account any special conditions such as ground nesting birds or other delicate habitat.	Written comment	9/27/09	At this time, Alaska State Parks is not proposing to promulgate new regulations about public use of the Channel Islands SMP. The Division believes that public education, implementation of existing regulations (e.g., permit requirements for commercial activities), patrol by park staff, and appropriate siting and construction of facilities and improvements will enhance recreation use and protect the park's resources and values. However, Alaska State Parks may determine, in consultation with the Advisory Board and the public, that additional management regulations are needed in the future. Alaska State Park's patrol and other management actions will be influenced by budget and staff capacity. The plan has been designed to include goals, objectives and actions that Alaska
	Increasing visitation will bring increase in impacts (see comments about "patrol").	Public meeting	9/23/09	
	Park management will address the use that is already occurring and reduce impacts.	Public meeting	9/23/09	
	The best management approach may be to reduce access and use, to protect resources.	Written comment	9/23/09	
	Will need more regulation of public uses than what is proposed for the park, especially if use increases.	Written comment	9/24/09	

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	Concern that proposed management is not realistic given "real life" budgets and staffing. Failure of the plan will result in disappointment of staff, residents and visitors, and negative impacts to the park's resources.	Written comment	10/6/09	State Parks believes are realistic to implement given its current capacity, and through partnerships with other cooperators. Even though there are real constraints, it is important to establish a management plan for the park that provides basic guidance for public use and management.
<b>Natural Zone designation</b>	Supports natural zone designation.	Written comment	9/27/09	No change to plan needed.
<b>Park boundary</b>	Figures show wrong south boundary on Shelter Island.	Written comment	9/22/09	The figures have been corrected.  There is not an issue with the park boundary in the legislation establishing the park.
	Figures show wrong south boundary on Shelter Island.	Phone comment	9/23/09	
	Figures show wrong south boundary on Shelter Island. Also, believes that legislation listed the sections in a way that precludes adding land to the park on Shelter Island.	Written comment	9/23/09	

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<b>Patrol</b>	Concern that there will not be sufficient patrol / enforcement.	Written comment	9/24/09	Alaska State Parks will provide for patrol and enforcement, as budgets allow.
	Concern that there will not be sufficient patrol / enforcement.	Public meeting	9/23/09	
	Concern that there will not be sufficient patrol / enforcement.	Written comment	9/25/09 10/06/09	
	Use hi-tech surveillance methods that might encourage or enforce good human behavior?	Written comment	9/23/09	
<b>Private lands</b>	All maps must show the location of inholding properties.	Written comment	9/30/09	All public information materials and maps will show the park boundary and the location of all inholdings, and will emphasize that the public must not trespass on private lands. Signs will be provided to identify the location of private inholdings in the park.
	All maps must show the location of inholding properties and other private properties.	Written comment	9/22/09	
	All public information material must clearly identify private lands; signs needed on the ground.	Public meeting	9/23/09	Alaska State Parks will consult with private land owners and will consider potential impacts to private lands when considering locations for recreation facilities, including trails.
	Concern that increasing public use of park will negatively effect the use and enjoyment of private lands.	Public meeting	9/23/09	
	Private land holdings should be clearly identified and protected, in public information and through signs on the ground. Plan should explicitly state that no impacts on the use and enjoyment by owners of the private lands will result from the plan.	Written comment	9/23/09	The plan clearly states that Alaska State Parks has no management authority on public lands.



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<b>Public education</b>	Include information about hazards involved in accessing the park.	Public meeting	9/23/09	Information about safe public access will be included in public education materials.
	Include information on safe camping in bear country.	Written comment	9/16/09	Reference added to plan.
	Include information regarding sensitive resources and steps to take to avoid impacts.	Public meeting	9/23/09	This information will be included in public education materials.
	Need more public education about State Parks in the Juneau area, in general - and Channel Islands SMP in particular. Do not put all funding into just expensive interpretive signs; use other less expensive methods that reach larger population (e.g., including school visits, public presentations).			This will be considered by Alaska State Parks and the Advisory Board in providing public information about the park.
	Concern that budget will not be there for effective public education; management plan should realistically reflect the very limited role public education has in molding visitor behavior.	Written comment	9/25/09 10/06/09	
	Public education is imperative.	Public meeting	9/23/09	No change to plan needed.
	Provide information about paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) issues with clam harvesting in park information.	Written comment	9/28/09	Public information materials can address safe harvesting of fish and wildlife resources.

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<b>Research</b>	Add "educational institutions" to Goal One, Obj. 3	Written comment	9/27/09	Added "educational and research" institutions to Obj. 5. Clarified that Obj. 3 relates to coordinated monitoring and enforcement, not research.
	Research should be encouraged.	Public meeting	9/23/09	No change needed to plan.
	Important to do research and resource inventories before development of facilities and trails, to establish baseline conditions.	Written comment	10/6/09	This will be encouraged in the plan.
<b>Resource inventory</b>	Resource inventory section of plan should be expanded to provide more justification for management actions.	Public meeting	9/23/09	The scope of this planning process does not provide for a more detailed resource inventory. However, more detailed resource information will be obtained before decisions are made about park management, such as locations of facilities, permission of commercial activities.
	Well written; including note that further research is needed for seabirds & shorebirds.	Written comment	9/27/09	No change needed to plan.

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<b>Sensitive resources - general</b>	Alaska State Parks should serve as a repository of resource information.	Public meeting	9/23/09	Added to plan.
	Discourage public visitation of Bird and Gull Islands, except for research or other special use.	Public meeting	9/23/09	This will be addressed through public education.
	Educate public about penalties to disturbing marine mammals.	Public meeting	9/23/09	This will be addressed through public education.
	Install signs to encourage people to stay out of (and keep dogs out of) sensitive areas.	Public meeting	9/23/09	This will be addressed through public education.
	Protect areas important to black oystercatchers and other seabirds; no development or encouragement of increased public use in these areas.	Public meeting	9/23/09	This will be address through public education and through appropriate siting of recreation facilities and improvements.
	Special habitats need protection - nesting seabirds (oystercatchers), Calypso orchids. Support need for resource inventories.	Written comment	9/24/09	No change to plan needed.
	It is essential to consult with agencies about sensitive resources now, before adoption of a management plan.	Written comment	10/6/09	Alaska State Parks sees value in adoption of management plan soon, to provide a basic framework for management. The division agrees that consultation with agencies regarding sensitive resources is important. Recommendations can readily be incorporated through plan updates.

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<b>Sensitive Areas - Benjamin Island</b>	Consider construction of trail and viewing blind - 2 comments	Public meeting	9/23/09	Alaska State Parks will consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) within the first year of plan implementation to discuss appropriate steps for management of visitation on Benjamin Island, prior to recommending any facility development, recreation infrastructure improvements or other management actions. These issues and NMFS' recommendations will also be discussed with the Juneau State Parks Citizen Advisory Board.
	Need viewing blind to avoid disruption of sealions.	Written comment	9/24/09	
	Sealion haulout needs appropriate management. Alaska State Parks needs to coordinate with NMFS.	Public meeting	9/23/09	
	appropriate management. Use for camping and picnicking should not be encouraged. Alaska State Parks needs to consult immediately with NMFS and ADF&G sealion biologists on a management plan for	Written comment	9/25/09 10/6/09	
	Should harden the campsite on Benjamin Island (to reduce impact from use already occurring) - 1 comment	Public meeting	9/23/09	
	There should be no development on Benjamin Island (cabin, campsite, trails) - 4 comments	Public meeting	9/23/09	